commitments, particularly for skilled professionals, by a larger number of WTO members. Negotiations on these issues are underway and will continue until the end of this round of negotiations on 31.12.2005.

(c) Does not arise

Revised WTO agreement

1937. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revised "Framework" agreement on global trade finalized at the World Trade Organisation meeting at Geneva recently;

(b) the extent to which India's interest has been protected in agriculture and goods, and

(c) the steps being initiated to make the Indian agriculture globally competitive in the final trade regime likely to emerge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The General Council, adopted on 1st August, 2004 by consensus of all its Members, a Decision on the Doha Work Programme incorporating framework agreements on agriculture and non-agricultural market access, and agreement to commence negotiations on Trade Facilitation The remaining three Singapore issues of Trade and Investment, Trade and Competition Policy, and Transparency in Government Procurement have been removed from the ambit of the Doha Work Programme The decision recognizes the importance of the developmental aspects of other areas including services, implementation issues and special and differential treatment and establishes time frames of the further negotiations. Finally, the Decision agreed to continue the negotiations up to the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference of the WTO scheduled to be held in December 2005 in Hong Kong, China.

(b) and (c) The frameworks on agriculture and on non-agricultural goods agreed to in the WTO duly address India's interests and concerns. Throughout these negotiations, Government has been taking up specific areas of concern to India for appropriate resolution in the drafts on the framework that have been presented at various stages of the negotiations. India has also been making concerted efforts with like-minded developing

countries, including in the G-20 alliance on agriculture, the G-33 alliance on Special Products, and the Africa Group, in order to ensure *inter alia*, that the elements and principles incorporated in the agreed frameworks serve to promote our competitiveness and to remove the distortions in global trade which disadvantage Indian interests. In the ensuing negotiations on the detailed modalities leading to the finalization of agreements on agriculture and goods, Government will continue to ensure that India's interests remain protected.

Flower exports to Asian markets

1938. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the potential of flower exports to the Asian markets; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to facilitate flower businessmen to export to the Asian markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken to facilitate flower businessmen to export to the Asian markets are as under:

(i) Cargo handling and cold storage facilities at airports in Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram;

(ii) Agri Export Zones for flowers are being set up in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Uttaranchal and Maharashtra;

(iii) Wholesale-Market-cum-Flower Auction Centres are being set up at Bangalore, Mumbai and Noida for export of flowers; and

(iv) Financial assistance to the registered exporters through plan schemes for Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, Research and Development: